GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4419
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ENERGY SECURITY
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Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has decided to turn its focus from the OPEC countries to the African nations for acquisition of oil and gas assets to meet surging energy requirements;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any dialogue has been held with the African nations in this regard;

(d) if so, the success has been achieved in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government to ensure the energy security for the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) to (d) The country imports the major chunk of its crude oil requirement from OPEC countries. Government has, however, been making efforts to diversify its sources of crude oil imports and, in this connection is looking at African countries also as sources of crude oil imports. In this context, the first India-Africa Hydrocarbon Conference and Exhibition was organized on 6-7th November, 2007 by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. A total of 26 African countries participated in the two-day deliberations and a framework envisaging greater cooperation between India and the African continent in the field of Hydrocarbons was drawn up. A road map of cooperation was drawn out, the contours of which envisage :-

i. Hydrocarbon Cooperation Agreements at the macro level to identify the broad areas of cooperation in the field of Exploration, Production and Refining;

ii. Stepping up crude oil imports, and exports of petro-products by India;

iii. Technology transfer and cooperation in R&D;

iv. Retail marketing of Fuels and Lubricants by Indian Companies in Africa; and

v. Training of technical and managerial personnel of African nations in hydrocarbon industry management.

(e) The Government has taken the following steps to ensure the energy security for the country

i. Carving out more and more areas for exploration for offer under various rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

ii. Quicker development of discovered reserves for enabling commencement of production.

iii. Use of stimulation techniques for increasing production from existing fields

iv. Application of Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/ Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) techniques for increasing recovery factor from existing fields.

v. Arresting decline from ageing fields.

vi. Acquisition of exploration acreages and oil producing properties overseas to bring in equity oil.

vii. Substitution of oil in the transport sector through use of alternative fuels such as Bio- diesel, ethanol, blended-petrol etc.

viii. Diversification of the sources for procurement of crude. The Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are now importing crude oil from about 25 countries either on term contract or through spot purchase.

ix. Construction of a Strategic Storage of crude oil of 5 MMT capacity at three locations viz. Visakhapatnam, Mangalore and Padur for

meeting unforeseen situations arising out of short term supply disruptions etc.